

P A T H

Department of Prevention, Assistance, Transition, and Health Access

FROM Eileen I. Elliott, Commissioner
for the Secretary

BULLETIN NO. 01-04F

DATE 6/19/2001

SUBJECT Fuel Program Changes

CHANGES ADOPTED EFFECTIVE 6/19/2001

INSTRUCTIONS

- Maintain Manual - See instructions below.
- Proposed Regulation - Retain bulletin and attachments until you receive Manual Maintenance Bulletin
- Information or Instructions - Retain until

MANUAL REFERENCE(S)

2907
2913

This bulletin implements the following changes to the regulations for the seasonal fuel assistance component policy of the Fuel Program:

The policy adds summer fuel purchase agreements to increase the purchasing power of Fuel Program benefits. Policy adds a September benefit payment for eligible households that heat with firewood.

Detailed Summary of Changes

The changes to the Fuel Program policy are as follows:

WAM 2907 Benefit Issuance

The policy adds a September wood fuel benefit payment for eligible households that heat with firewood and apply between July 15 and August 31.

WAM 2913 Advantageous Pricing

The policy provides for summer fuel purchase agreements to increase the purchasing power of Fuel Program benefits. Language identifies that agreements may be for any home heating fuel type and makes agreements subject to Fuel Supplier Certification. Policy identifies that agreement financial amounts will be based on the past number of recipients served by a supplier and a projected average annual fuel benefit.

Language requires the Fuel Office to inform program recipients and suppliers which fuel benefits are subject to a summer fuel purchase agreement and how those fuel benefits are obtained. Language clarifies that program recipients are responsible for paying for fuel not covered by seasonal fuel benefits.

Policy allows fuel suppliers to choose not to enter into a summer fuel purchase agreement and still participate in the Fuel Program subject to Fuel Supplier Certification.

Language requires the Fuel Office to make available a list of suppliers who have entered into summer fuel purchase agreements and to advise recipients of the key terms of any summer fuel purchase agreement entered into by their certified fuel supplier.

This rule was adopted in its final form in compliance with Section 129e of H.485 (2001) "Appropriation to Support State Government."

Copies of the adopted rule and the applicable sections of the enabling legislation have been provided to the Home Energy Assistance Task Force (HEAT Force), the Fuel Policy Advisory Committee (Fuel PAC), the Vermont Oil Heat Institute (VOHI), the Vermont Propane Gas Association (VPGA), and firewood dealers certified with the Fuel Assistance Program. Fuel Assistance clients will be advised of the changes when they receive their benefit notices.

Significant changes to policy including deletions are indicated by vertical lines in the left margin. Changes to clarify, rearrange, or correct references, without changing the policy are dotted.